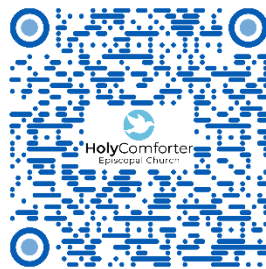




**Holy Comforter Episcopal Church
Spring, Texas
The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 12, 2024
The Holy Eucharist: Rite One
8:00 a.m.**

Welcome one and all this morning! Welcome long-time parishioners and visitors alike. If you are new here, we would love to get to know you a bit better. Please fill out a brief welcome form at hcec.link/welcome or scan this QR code



Please ask an usher for an assistive listening device to help hear the service.

Our Mission

We worship God, love our neighbors, create community, follow Jesus, and steward our resources.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING ACCLAMATION (BCP p. 323)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People: **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

SONG OF PRAISE (BCP p. 324)

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY (BCP p. 325)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to

comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, ¹⁶“Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—¹⁷for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry.” ²¹So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, ²²beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.” ²³So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. ²⁴Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen ²⁵to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.” ²⁶And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1 *Read responsively by whole verse.*

¹Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

**²Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on his law day and night.**

³They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

**⁴It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

**⁶For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

Second Lesson: 1 John 5:9-13

A Reading from the First letter of John.

⁹If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. ¹⁰Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. ¹¹And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and

this life is in his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 17:6-19

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

***People:* Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed for his disciples saying,] ⁶“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

***People:* Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

Please be seated as you are able for the sermon.

A moment of reflection.

THE NICENE CREED (BCP p. 326) – Please stand.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the
dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (BCP p. 328)

Please use the form at www.bcec.link/pray to add a concern to our prayers.

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor especially, Bob, Melanie, Rosa, Frank, Lisa, Don, Barbara, Margaret, and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Please offer additional petitions and thanksgivings at this time.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, especially Olga and Rusty, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN (BCP p. 330)

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People:

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. Amen.

Celebrant:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

THE PEACE (BCP p. 332)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Offertory Sentence (BCP p. 343)

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But to do good and to distribute, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. *Hebrews 13:15, 16*

Place wooden tokens and financial gifts in the offering plate. You may make a gift online in Church Center at www.bcec.link/give or text a dollar amount to 84321.

Please stand as the gifts of bread, wine, and money are brought to the altar.

The Great Thanksgiving (BCP p. 333)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

***People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***People:* It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Through thy dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who after his glorious resurrection manifestly appeared to his disciples; and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

SANCTUS: (BCP p. 334)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:

Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please remain standing or kneel as you are able.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation,

and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 336)

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD (BCP p. 337)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS (BCP p. 337)

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The minister receives the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately delivers it to the people. The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words:

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

All who seek God's blessing are welcome. If you are not yet baptized, or do not wish to receive for any reason, cross your arms over your chest and you will be given a blessing. All baptized Christians are invited to receive the bread and wine. To receive a wafer of bread, extend your hands with your palms up, to receive a gluten free wafer, extend your hands with your palms down. You may either drink from the chalice or dip the bread in the wine. If you wish to be baptized, please let John know.

Prayer partners are available in the chapel to pray with you about anything on your heart.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (BCP p. 339) *Please stand or kneel.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

BLESSING

DISMISSAL (BCP P. 340)

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Bob Lowry – healing

Rosa Garcia – healing

Frank Duffy – healing

Melanie Coe- healing

Barbara Ferring – healing

Margaret Coull - healing

Lisa & Don Taylor – healing

Olga Janer – received by God in death

Rusty Pollock – received by God in death

VESTRY PERSON OF THE DAY – Gwen Aldridge

Altar Flowers: The altar flowers are given to the glory of God in honor, thanksgiving, and memory of all mothers, by The Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

New Curate: We are pleased to announce that Bishop Doyle has placed Tony Kroll as the curate at Holy Comforter. Tony will be ordained as a deacon on June 15. To read Father John's full announcement letter, please check the Weekly Blast from Friday, May 10th.

Time and Talent Commitment Campaign: The stewardship committee invites everyone, regardless of age, to commitment your time and gifts to “worshipping God, loving our neighbors, creating community, following Jesus and stewarding our resources”. Please use this online link to make your commitment: <https://www.holycomforterspring.org/2024-commitment>

Time and Talent Celebration: On Sunday May 19th, join us for a catered lunch after the 10 AM Worship Service to celebrate Pentecost and our commitments of Time and Talents to Holy Comforter's mission.

Work Days: The first and third Saturday of every month from 9 AM to 10:30 AM beginning Saturday, May 4th - Come help keep the church looking beautiful and help with light maintenance and repair projects. Be sure to talk to our Jr. Warden, Wes if you have any questions.

Relational Evangelism Workshop: Jesus asks his followers to share the good news about him to others. Join our five-week course to grow in your evangelism. There are two parts to the workshop each week, an online component and an in-person session. The in-person portion will be offered at multiple times each week. Sign up for the online portion at www.hcec.link/pathwright and sign up for one of the in-person sessions at www.hcec.link/signup.

Blood Drive: Sunday, June 23rd - Holy Comforter will be hosting a blood drive for the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center. They will be bringing their motor coach and will begin taking appointments at 9:00 AM with the last appointment being at 12:45 PM

THIS MONTH'S LOVE IN ACTION

For the month of May, we are inviting all to put together "manna bags" that can be handed out to individuals in need. These are bags you can have on-hand when out and about to give to individuals in our area. To learn more, visit www.hcec.link/love-in-action.

WEEKLY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 8 am – Rite I
Sunday 10 am – Rite II (Music, Nursery)
Wednesday 9 am – Morning Prayer Rite II – Chapel

WEEKLY FORMATION CLASSES

Various Times

Discipleship Small Groups, www.hcec.link/dsg
Relational Evangelism Workshop

Sunday 9 am

Word Made Fresh Book Study – Ed Bldg. Room 2

Sunday 11 am

Episcopal Youth Community – EYC 6th-12th grade
Parenting with Grace – Ed Bldg. Room 2
Weaving God’s Promises for Kids – Ed Bldg. Room 1

MONTHLY MEETINGS & GATHERINGS

Lunch Bunch – First Sunday after 10 AM service
Book Club – Third Tuesday 7 pm – Zoom
Tackle Life Market – Second Saturday 9am-2pm

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